

THE HOLY CHILD

A CANTATA FOR CHRISTMASTIDE

THE TEXT COMPILED FROM HOLY SCRIPTURES

AND COMPOSED BY

ISABELLA PARKER

MUSIC

BY

HORATIO W. PARKER

OP. 37

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ISABELLA G. PARKER.



PART I.

I.

THE ANGEL.

RECIT.—I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God, and I am sent to speak unto thee, and to show thee these glad tidings. Thou shalt bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins.

St. Luke 1 : 19, 31. St. Matt. 1 : 1.

II.

NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM.

How soft the light on Judah's hills
And on her blessed plains,
While o'er the shepherds, watching there,
Unbroken silence reigns !

But see, a light like morn on midnight breaking,
And hark, angelic choirs the song awaking !

RECIT.—Fear not ! Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

St. Luke 2 : 10.

The Prince of Peace this day is born,
In David's city fair ;
Go, bow before His sacred feet,
And offer homage there.

To God on high be endless praise and glory ;
O haste, tell all the world the wondrous story !

I.

III.

THE VISIT OF THE SHEPHERDS.

O ye who heard the blessed song
First fall on mortal ears,
Whose harmony shall never cease,
Down to the latest years,

How did ye haste, with eager feet,
To Bethlehem's lowly shed,
Where, in the manger, lay the Babe,
For us incarnate made !

How reverently ye entered in
To worship at His feet,
Returning then, with thankful praise
Those wonders to repeat !

IV.

THE MANGER-THRONE.

Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords,
Seeks the poorest shelter earth affords ;
Yet that manger is a glorious throne
For Messiah, come unto His own.

Angel hosts in wonder o'er it bend,
This new mystery to comprehend,
Bright above the portal shines the star,
Hither guiding wise men from afar.

PART II.

V.

CRADLE HYMN.

In softest slumber rest ;
Thy mother's faithful arms
Shall shield Thee, Infant blest,
From all alarms !

How gentle Thy repose !
Thy brow no shadow wears ;
Fairer than fairest rose
Thy face appears !

The tender, sheltering ward
Of many a seraph bright,
Thy slumber deep shall guard,
Best Babe, to-night.

My soul doth magnify
The Lord, whose wondrous power
Hath given from on high
Such priceless dower!

So sleep, Thou sinless One,
In human form enshrined,
Thy earthly life begun,
Heaven left behind!

To rest, with blessed dreams,
Cradled in lowliness,
Till morning's radiant beams
The earth shall bless!

VI.

PROCESSION OF THE MAGI.

Behold the Infant King
With lowly adoration,
Who cometh, free salvation
For all the world to bring.

Our offerings we give,
Rich odors, golden treasure,
But never can we measure
The love that we receive.

Our nature Thou dost bear,
With all its woes, upon Thee,
We worship Thee, we crown Thee,
O Child divinely fair!

Dwell in our inmost heart,
True God, true man, forever,
And let Thy presence never
From that dear shrine depart.

III.

VII.

THE PROPHETIC SONG.

Now appears the glorious morning,
Brightly dawning,
By the prophets long foretold !
Light o'erspreadeth every nation,
And salvation
Bringeth blessings manifold.

God His people will deliver,
And forever
Shall they serve him without fear;
Righteousness shall go before Him.
Come, adore Him
In His holy temple here !

Now, at length, mine eyes beholding
The unfolding
Of Thy sure and faithful word,
With thanksgiving pure and fervent,
Let Thy servant
In Thy peace depart, O Lord !



VIII.

HYMN OF PRAISE.

Rejoice, O heaven and earth,
And hail the glorious birth !
The Light of life all darkness has dispelled !
His lovely, radiant face
Is full of truth and grace,
Such beauty mortal eye hath ne'er beheld.

He stands, an ensign bright,
The Gentiles see His light,
And multitudes behold the sign of peace.
His rest shall glorious be,
While over land and sea,
Thro' countless years His reign shall never cease.



pes

IV.



The Holy Child.

A Cantata for Christmastide.

Part I.

Nº 1. The Angel.

Allegro moderato.

HORATIO W. PARKER. Op. 37.

The musical score is written in B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. It begins with a piano introduction marked *f risoluto*. The piano part consists of chords in the right hand and a rhythmic accompaniment in the left hand. The tenor solo enters with the lyrics: "I 'am Ga-bri-el, that stand in the presence of God, in the pres-ence of God, and I am sent to speak un-to". The score includes dynamic markings such as *f*, *p*, and *ff*. The piano accompaniment features various textures, including block chords and moving lines in both hands.

thee, and to show thee these glad ti-dings. Thou

shalt bring forth a Son and shalt

call His Name — Je - sus, for He — shall save His

peo - ple from their sins;

for He shall save His — peo - ple

from their sins, _____ their sins, _____ and

rit. thou shalt call His Name Je - sus. *pp* *a tempo.*

SOPRANO. *pp*
And He shall save His peo-ple from their sins, and
ALTO. *pp*
And He shall save His peo-ple from their
TENOR. *pp*
And He shall save His peo-ple from their sins, and
BASS. *pp*
And He shall save His peo-ple from their sins, and

p thou shalt call His Name Je - sus.

thou shalt call His Name Je - sus.

sins, thou shalt call His Name Je - sus.

thou shalt call His Name Je - sus.

thou shalt call His Name Je - sus.

p

No 2. Night in Bethlehem.

Allegretto Pastorale.

Ob.
p

Ob. & Eng. Horn

pp

pp

SOPRANO. *pp*
How

ALTO. *pp*
How

TENOR. *pp*
How

BASS. *pp*
How

mf

Ped.

soft — the light on Ju - dah's hills And on her bless - ed

soft — the light on Ju - dah's hills And on her bless - ed

pp

plains, While o'er the shep - herds
 plains, While o'er the shep - herds

The first system of the musical score consists of four staves. The top two staves are vocal parts, and the bottom two are piano accompaniment. The lyrics 'plains, While o'er the shep - herds' are written below the vocal staves. The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a more active line in the left hand.

pp
 watch - ing there, Un - brok - en si - lence reigns. But
pp
 watch - ing there, Un - brok - en si - lence reigns. But
pp

The second system continues the musical score. It includes the lyrics 'watch - ing there, Un - brok - en si - lence reigns. But' repeated on two vocal staves. The piano accompaniment features a more complex, flowing line with some triplets. Dynamic markings 'pp' (pianissimo) are present above and below the piano staves.

cresc.
 see, a light like morn on midnight breaking; And hark, an - gel - ic
cresc.
 see, a light like morn on midnight breaking; And hark, an - gel - ic
cresc.

The third system of the musical score features the lyrics 'see, a light like morn on midnight breaking; And hark, an - gel - ic' repeated on two vocal staves. The piano accompaniment includes triplets and a crescendo marking 'cresc.' above the staves. The music builds in intensity towards the end of the system.

choirs the song a-wak - ing: Fear not, Fear not! Be-

choirs the song a-wak - ing: Fear not, Fear not! Be-

hold I bring you good ti - dings, good ti - dings of great -

hold I bring you good ti - dings, good ti - dings of great -

joy, — which shall be, which shall be to

joy, which shall be, which shall be to

all peo - ple.

all peo - ple.

The first system consists of four staves. The top two staves are vocal parts (Soprano and Alto) with lyrics "all peo - ple.". The bottom two staves are piano accompaniment. The music is in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a more active bass line in the left hand.

The second system continues the piano accompaniment from the first system. It consists of two staves (treble and bass clef). The right hand continues with eighth-note patterns, while the left hand has a more complex, moving bass line. The system concludes with a double bar line.

Ob. Solq.

p

p

The third system introduces an Oboe Solo (Ob. Solq.) in the upper staff, marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The piano accompaniment continues in the lower staves, also marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The Oboe part features a melodic line with some grace notes. The system ends with a double bar line.

The fourth system continues the piano accompaniment. It consists of two staves. The right hand plays a series of eighth-note chords and single notes, while the left hand provides a steady bass line. The system concludes with a double bar line.

The fifth system continues the piano accompaniment. It consists of two staves. The right hand features a more active melodic line with eighth-note runs, while the left hand continues with a steady bass line. The system concludes with a double bar line.

SOPRANO. *p* The

ALTO. *p* The

TENOR. *p* The

BASS. *p* The

mf

Prince of Peace this day is born In Da - vid's cit - y

Prince of Peace this day is born In Da - vid's cit - y

p

fair; Go, bow be - fore His

fair; Go, bow be - fore His

f

sa - cred feet And of - fer hom - age there. To

sa - cred feet And of - fer hom - age there. To

cresc. God, on high, be end-less praise and glo - ry! O

cresc. God, on high, be end-less praise and glo - ry!

God, on high, be end-less praise and glo - ry! O

cresc.

haste! tell all the world the won-drous sto - ry.

O haste tell all the world the won drous sto - ry.

haste! tell all the world the won-drous sto - ry.

sf Fear not, Fear not! Be - hold I bring you good

f Fear not, Fear not! Be - hold I bring you good

ti - dings, good ti - dings of great joy, which

ti - dings, good ti - dings of great joy, which

shall be, which shall be to all

shall be, which shall be to all

peo - ple; Fear not, Fear not! I

bring you good ti - dings,

good ti - dings,

good ti - dings, Fear not,

p *pp* *pp*

Fear not! I bring you good ti - dings, which shall be to

Fear not! I bring you good ti - dings, which shall be to

p

all peo - ple.

all peo - ple.

No 3. The Visit of the Shepherds.

Moderato, ma non troppo lento.

f

ye who heard the bless - ed song First fall on mor - tal ears, Whose

har - mo - ny shall nev - er cease Down to the lat - est years.

mf How

did ye haste with ea - ger feet To Bethle - hem's low - ly - shed,

mf *p*

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of five systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a single staff and a piano accompaniment on two staves (treble and bass clef). The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The tempo is 'Moderato, ma non troppo lento'. The score includes dynamic markings: *f* (forte) at the beginning, *mf* (mezzo-forte) for the 'How' section, and *p* (piano) for the final phrase. The lyrics are: 'ye who heard the bless - ed song First fall on mor - tal ears, Whose har - mo - ny shall nev - er cease Down to the lat - est years. How did ye haste with ea - ger feet To Bethle - hem's low - ly - shed,'.

Where in the man-ger lay the Babe For us in-carnate made! How

rev-erently ye en-tered in To wor-ship at His feet; Re-

turn-ing then with thank-ful praise Those wonders to re-peat...

O ye who heard the

bles-sed song First fall on mortal ears, How did ye haste with

ea - ger feet To Bethlehem's low - ly shed, Where in the

man - ger lay — the Babe For us

— in - car - nate — made,

For us in - car - nate

made.

Nº 4. The Manger Throne.

Allegro moderato.



SOPRANO.

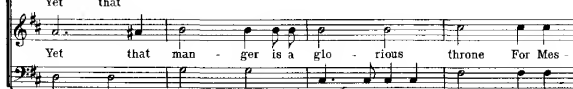
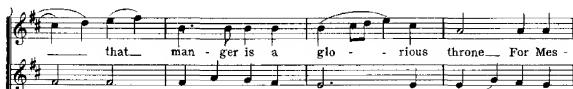
Christ, the King of kings, and Lord of lords, Seeks the poor - est shelter earth affords, Yet

ALTO.

TENOR.

Christ, the King of kings, and Lord of lords, Seeks the poor - est shelter earth affords,

BASS.



cresc.
 si - ah, come un - to His own. Hail
 si - ah, come
 si - ah, come un - to His own. Hail Him,
 si - ah, come un - to His own, His own. Hail Him,
cresc.
 Him, hail Him, hail Him, come un - to His own. *f*
 An-gels, hail Him,
 hail Him, hail Him, come un - to His own. Hail Mes-si-ah! An-gels, hail Him,
 Hail Him, hail Him,
cresc.
 Hail Mes-si-ah, Hail Him, Hail Mes-si-ah, come un - to His own. *ff*
 Hail Mes-si-ah, Hail Him, Hail Mes-si-ah, come un - to His own. *ff*
 hail Him, hail Him,
ff

First system of musical notation. It includes four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The piano part features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, with a forte (*f*) dynamic marking.

Second system of musical notation, continuing the vocal and piano parts from the first system.

Meno mosso.

Third system of musical notation. The tempo is marked "Meno mosso." The vocal parts enter with the lyrics "An - gel hosts in won - der o'er it bend, An - gel hosts". The piano accompaniment is marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic.

Meno mosso.

Fourth system of musical notation. The tempo remains "Meno mosso." The piano accompaniment continues with a piano (*p*) dynamic.

oer it bend — This new mys - ter
 An - gel hosts in won - der o'er it bend,
 This new mys - ter - y to —
 An - gel hosts in won - der o'er it bend, This new mys - ter —

y to compre - hend; Bright a - bove the port - al
 This new mys - ter - y to comprehend; Bright a - bove the port - al
 com - pre - hend; Bright a - bove the port - al
 y to compre - hend;

shines the star — Thith - er guid - ing
 shines the star — Thith - er guid - ing

wise men from a - far.

wise men from a - far.

Tempo I.

ff Christ, the King of kings, and Lord of lords, *p* Seeks the poor - est shelter earth affords; Yet -

ff Christ, the King of kings, and Lord of lords, *p* Seeks the poor - est shelter earth affords;

ff *p*

that man - ger is a glo - rious throne, For Mes - si - ah,
 Yet that
 Yet that man - ger is a glo - rious throne, For Mes - si - ah,
 Yet that man - ger is a glorious throne, For Mes - si - ah,

come un - to His own. Hail Him, hail Him, hail Him,
 come un - to His own. Hail Him, hail Him, hail Him! come un -

come un - to His own; Hail Mes - si - ah, hail Him!
 An - gels, hail Him
 to His own; Hail Mes - si - ah, An - gels, hail Him, Hail Mes - si - ah, hail Him!
 Hail Him, hail Him, hail Him, hail Him!

ff

Hail Messi - ah, Hail Messi-ah, Hail Messi - ah, come un - to His own;

Hail Messi - ah, Hail Mes - si - ah, come un - to His own;

Hail Messi - ah, Hail Messi-ah, Hail Messi - ah, come un - to His own;

Hail Messi - ah, Hail, hail Him!

ff

Hail Him, hail Him, Hail Mes - si - ah,

Hail Him, hail Him, Hail Mes - si - ah,

rit.

come un to His own.

rit.

come un to His own.

Part II.
 No 5. Cradle Hymn.
 (Duet...Soprano and Tenor.)

Allegretto Pastorale. TENOR. *p*

In

soft - est slumber rest, Thy moth - er's faithful arms Shall

shield Thee: In - fant blest, From all a - larms. How

sostenuto
 gen - tle Thy re - pose, Thy brow no shadow wears,

Fair - er than fair - est rose Thy face ap - pears, Thy

face ap - pears.

SOPRANO. *p*
The

ten - der sheltring ward Of man - y a seraph bright, Thy

slum - ber deep shall guard, Blest Babe, to - night. My

soul doth mag - ni - fy The Lord, whose won - - - drous

power Hath given, from on high, Such

grace, sun, dower

SOPRANO *mf*
So

TENOR *mf*
So

slorp, Thou shalt Oze, in ha xus fern ex-shined, Thy

slorp, Thou shalt Oze, in ha xus fern ex-shined, Thy

earth - ly life be - gun, And Heav'n left be - hind. So

earth - ly life be - gun, Heav'n left be - hind. So

pp

rest, with bless - ed dreams Cra - died in

rest, rest with bless - ed dreams,

pp

low - li - ness, Till morn - ing's ra - diant

Cra - died in low - li - ness, Till morn - ing's

cresc.

beams The earth shall bless; Till morn - ing's

beams The earth shall bless; Till morn - ing's

ff

ra - - diant beams The earth shall

ra - - diant beams The earth shall

bless. So rest, so

bless. So rest, so

rest, rest, so

rest, rest, so

rest with blessed dreams; So rest.

rest with blessed dreams; So rest.

rest with blessed dreams; So rest.

Nº 6. Procession of the Magi.

Moderato.

Piano accompaniment for the first system, marked *Moderato* and *p*. The music is in 3/4 time and B-flat major. The right hand features a melody with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand provides a steady bass line with eighth notes. The second system continues the piano accompaniment with similar rhythmic patterns. The third system shows more complex chordal textures in the right hand. The fourth system features a more active bass line with eighth notes and some triplets.

Male Chorus (or Quartet.)

TENORS. *mf*

BASSES. *mf*

Be - hold the In - fant

Be - hold the In - fant

Vocal parts for the Male Chorus (or Quartet). The Tenors and Basses enter with the lyrics "Be - hold the In - fant". The Tenors' part is on a higher line, and the Basses' part is on a lower line. Both parts have a melodic line with some grace notes. The piano accompaniment continues below the vocal staves, providing harmonic support.

King, With low-ly ad-o-ra-tion, Who com-eth, free sal-va-tion For
 King, With low-ly ad-o-ra-tion, Who com-eth, free sal-va-tion For

all the world to bring.
 all the world to bring.

mf Our of-fer-ings we give,— Rich
mf Our of-fer-ings we give, Rich

o-dors, gold-en treas-ure; But nev-er can we meas-ure The
 o-dors, gold-en treas-ure; But nev-er can we meas-ure The

p
love that we re-ceive.
p
love that we re-ceive.

mf
Our nat-ure Thou dost bear, With
mf
Our nat-ure Thou dost bear, With

all its woes up-on Thee, We wor-ship Thee, we
all its woes up-on Thee, We wor-ship Thee, we

crown Thee, O Child, divine-ly fair. Dwell in our in-most
crown Thee, O Child, divine-ly fair. Dwell in our in-most

heart, True God, true man, for ev

er; And let Thy presence nev - er From that dear shrine de -

part. Dwell in our hearts, dwell in our hearts, And

let Thy pres - ence nev - er from that
 let Thy pres - ence nev - er from that

dear shrine de - part.
 dear shrine de - part.

dim.

pp

No 7. The Prophetic Song.

Aria Bass.

Risoluto.

ff

Now ap-pears the glorious morning, Bright-ly dawn-ing, By the Prophets long fore -

told; Light o'erspread-eth ev-'ry na - tion And sal - va - tion Bringeth

blessings man - i - fold.

ff

God, His

p

11039

people will de - liv - er, And for - ev - er Shall they

serve Him, And for - ev - er shall they serve Him, shall they serve Him without

fear; Right - eousness shall go be - fore Him; Come, a -

dore Him, In His Ho - ly tem - ple here!

f

Now at length mine eyes be - hold - ing The un - fold - ing Of Thy

p

sure and faith - ful word; With thanksgiv - ing, pure and fer - vent, Let Thy

ser - vant In Thy peace de - part, O Lord; Let Thy ser - vant in Thy peace

de - part, O Lord!

pp

No 8. Hymn of Praise.



Chorus. SOPRANO.

Re - joice, O

ALTO.

TENOR.

BASS.

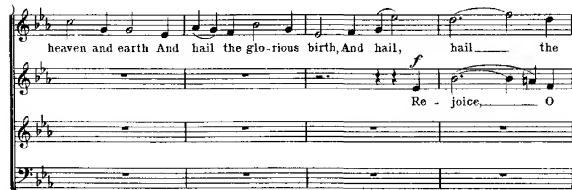
Re - joice,

f



heaven and earth And hail the glo-rious birth, And hail, hail the

Re - joice, O



glo - rious birth, Re-joice,
heaven and earth, And hail the glo-rious birth, Re-joice, O
Re-joice, O

Re-joice, O heaven and earth; Hail the
heaven, O heaven and earth! Rejoice, Rejoice, and
heaven and earth, And hail the glorious birth And hail,< hail
Re-joice, O heaven and earth, And

ff
glo - rious birth; The light of life all dark-ness hath dis -
hail this birth; *ff*
hail this birth; The light of life all dark-ness hath dis -
hail the glo-rious birth; *ff*

p
 pelled, — The light of life all darkness hath dis-pelled: His love - ly
p
 pelled, — The light of life all darkness hath dis-pelled:
p

ra - diant face is full of truth.
p
 Such

beaut - y mor - tal eye hath ne'er be - held.

Such beaut - y mor - tal eye hath

ne'er be - held, His love - ly ra - diant

face is full of truth and grace;

face is full of truth and grace;

11039

His love - ly ra - diant face is

His love - ly ra - diant face is

full of truth and grace.

full of truth and grace.

pp *poco a poco* *crasc.*

ff Tempo I.
Re - joice, O

ff Re - joice, O

ff Tempo I.

heaven and earth, And hail the glo-rious birth; The Light of

heaven and earth, And hail the glo-rious birth; The Light of

Life all dark - ness hath dis - pelled.

Life all dark - ness hath dis - pelled.

Life all

ff He stands, an ensign bright, The Gentiles see His light,

ff He stands, an ensign bright, The Gentiles see His light,

ff

And mul-ti-tudes behold the sign of *p* peace: His rest shall glo-rious be, While

And mul-ti-tudes behold the sign of peace:

o - ver land and sea Through countless years His reign shall nev - er

p cease. His rest shall glorious be, While o - ver land and sea, Through

His rest shall glorious be, While o - ver land and sea, Through

11030

count - less years His reign shall nev - er cease. *p*
 His
 count - less years His reign shall nev - er cease. *p*
 His

rest shall glo - rious be, While o - ver land and sea, Through
 rest shall glo - rious be, While o - ver land and sea, Through

p
 His
 count - less years His reign shall nev - er cease. *p*
 His
 count - less years His reign shall nev - er cease. *p*

rest shall glo-rious be, While o-ver land and sea, Through

countless years, through countless years, through

count-less years His reign shall nev-er cease. Re-

cresc. *ff*

cresc. *ff*

cresc. *ff*

Solo Tenor.

Re-joyce,

O heaven

and earth!

Solo Bass.

Re-joyce,

O heaven

and earth!

Tempo 1.

Re-joyce,

O heaven

and earth!

joyce,

O heaven and earth, And hail the glo-rious birth; The

joyce,

O heaven and earth, And hail the glo-rious birth; The

Tempo 1.

ff

Light of life all darkness hath dis - pelled, The Light of

Light of life all darkness hath dis - pelled, The Light of

